

# Pastor Kory's Page

Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD

September 26-27, 2015

## “On A Mission”

It's been a while since my last Pastor's Page! This week, I would just like to share a brief recap of some of what Rev. John Mehl shared with us last weekend and also look ahead to some upcoming opportunities. Rev. Mehl has served as a rural parish pastor and also as an LCMS missionary to Russia, Germany, and Hong Kong. In his new role, he serves as the Director of Mission Partnerships and Church Relations for Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska. Here are some of the highlights and encouragements he shared with us:

**Abundant Life is ours in Christ!** (John 10:10b) While we are tempted to pursue a supposed abundant life by consuming the treasures and experiences of this world, those things will ultimately leave us empty without Christ. Our Lord wants to give us so much more than this sinful world can offer! He brings us to new and abundant life in baptism and calls us to a life of purpose, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Eph 2:10).

**Planting Seeds:** Remember the story of the knitting needles? Rev. Mehl shared the story of an elderly confirmand in in his Russian congregation. In the aftermath of WWII, she had received knitting needles in a care package from Christians in America. This care package made an impression on her that she never forgot. Some fifty years later, the Lord led her to Faith through the ministry of an American pastor, Rev. Mehl. The Lord works in surprising ways! He can and will work through some of the Gospel seeds that you plant as simple expressions of love and care in Jesus' name.

**With Whatever Remains:** Rev. Mehl shared with us some words from Martin Luther, reminding us that *whatever remains of our life* is an opportunity to make Christ known through our words and deeds. Of course none of us knows exactly how much remains of our lives, but whether it could be many years or just a few, this we do know: God *will* give us opportunities to reflect Christ's forgiveness and grace. All we need to do is be open to the Holy Spirit's leading and be willing to let the Lord work through us!

**Make Room For *Different*:** During our mealtime after the 10:30 service, Rev. Mehl shared that his experiences as a missionary taught him to be more open to differences. People from other cultures or backgrounds will certainly do things differently from us. “Different” doesn't necessarily mean “wrong.” As we seek to give a witness, we don't want to let the differences between us and others become such a barrier that we are unable to see those around us as valuable neighbors for whom Christ died.

**Thrivent Action Teams:** On another note, the meal last Sunday was provided by a Thrivent Action Team. Did you know that every Thrivent member can form two Action Teams per year for fundraising purposes, service activities, or educational opportunities? Every qualifying Action Team receives a \$250 credit card as seed money to jumpstart their event or cause. What a great resource to use for our mission efforts and much more! Visit [thrivent.com](http://thrivent.com) or talk with Faith members and Thrivent Agents, Joel Neubauer or Adam Weeman, for details.

**Bible Study:** Beginning this Sunday, I will be teaching a new adult Bible Study, based on a little book from Lutheran Hour Ministries, *Make Him Known: A Foundation for Witnessing*. This book was written by a Lutheran layperson for Lutheran laypeople to provide us with a basic understanding of Christian mission and to help us develop skills in doing just what the title says: making Christ known to others. As we begin, we'll focus on the Good News. We love and serve and seek others because Christ first loved and served and sought us!

**Missionaries to Japan:** Drs. Daniel and Joan Jastram are preparing to serve as LCMS missionaries to Japan. They will join us on the weekend of Oct 17-18 to share about the Japanese mission field and about how we can partner with them as they serve the Lord in this way. Learn more at [lcms.org/jastram](http://lcms.org/jastram).

**Mission Teams:** Next month will also be a big month for Faith's mission teams. Krista Erickson will be leading a mission trip to Hong Kong and our MOST Ministries Medical Mission Team will be traveling to provide care for both body and soul to the people of Guatemala. Please keep both mission teams in your prayers as they make their final preparations in the next several weeks.

Peace in Christ,  
Pastor Kory Janneke